

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for inhibiting development of allergic disease, the process comprising exposing a neonatal or immature mammal or bird to irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide derived from microbial, ~~protozoan~~ and/or fungal endotoxin.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is detoxified by exposure of the endotoxin to irradiation at a level of from about 25 to about 150 kGy.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation changes the structure of the endotoxin while maintaining its positive immune effect in the resulting irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is adapted to stimulate the Th 1 arm of the immune system.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein an infant mammal is exposed.

6. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by administering a topical composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide to the infant mammal.

7. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the topical composition further comprises a powder.

8. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7, wherein the powder comprises talcum powder, corn starch, beet starch, rice flour, oatmeal, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the topical composition is in the form of a topical cream.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the exposure is achieved by administering an aerosol spray composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

11. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by contacting the infant mammal with a wipe impregnated with a composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

12. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by contacting the infant mammal with a diaper impregnated with a composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

13. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein a human of 1 month to 2 years of age is exposed.

14. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein a primate of 2 weeks to 12 months of age is exposed.

15. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein a dog or cat of 1 week to 12 months of age is exposed.

16. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is delivered in a concentration from 0.01 ug/g to 100 ug/g of topical composition.

17. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein exposure to the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is achieved shortly after birth and during the maturing life cycle of the mammal or bird.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein exposure to the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is achieved on a daily basis during growth of the mammal or bird.

19. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein exposure to the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is achieved on a weekly basis during growth of the mammal or bird.

20. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein the mammal or bird is a farm animal.

21. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 20, wherein the farm animal is a cow, pig, goat, horse, chicken or turkey of 2 days to 12 months of age.